**Airport development in Sikkim**

4295. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme and programme for construction of airport in the State of Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of financial assistance granted to Sikkim for development of Gangtok Airport during the years, 2006-07 and 2007-08; and

(d) by when the above airport is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has approved the construction of a Greenfield airport at Pekyong in Sikkim.

(c) No central assistance was provided to Sikkim for development of Gangtok airport during the annual plan 2006-07. Although, the annual plan 2007-08 has been finalized, the sectoral allocations have not been received from the State Government for the approval of the Planning Commission.

(d) Construction of Greenfield airport will be completed within a period of three years from award of work.

**Congestion during peak summer season**

4296. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air congestion is quite high at the metro airport in Delhi and Mumbai, especially during the peak holiday summer seasons; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in a bid to address the problem of congestion at these airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There is congestion at Delhi and Mumbai airports during peak hours.

(b) To reduce the air traffic congestion at Delhi and Mumbai airports, the measures taken include construction of new high speed exist taxiways,